

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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TAGS: PFOR, PORG

SUBJ: BUNCHE MEMORIAL PLAN CITED IN CONNECTION WITH CHANGE OF  
NAME OF UN PLAZA TO ZION SQUARE

REF: USUN'S 420, 425

1. ACCORDING TO FEB 10, 1976 ISSUE OF NEW YORK TIMES,  
SMALL PARK NEAR UN THAT MAY BE RENAMED ZION SQUARE HAD  
PREVIOUSLY BEEN APPROVED BY TWO NEW YORK CITY AGENCIES  
AS SITE FOR A MONUMENT IN HONOR OF DR. RALPH BUNCHE.

2. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, DISCLOSURE WAS GREETED WITH  
SURPRISE BY BOTH SIDES INVOLVED IN CONTROVERSY OVER  
RENAMING PARK AND BY OFFICIALS FOR CITY'S ART COMMISSION  
AND BY A SPOKESMAN FOR CITY'S PARKS, RECREATION AND  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION, BOTH OF WHICH APPROVED  
SITE FOR BUNCHE MONUMENT IN 1973.

3. DONALD GORMLEY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CITY ART  
COMMISSION SAID IT WAS A SURPRISE TO COMMISSION BUT HE  
SAW NO CONFLICT. GORMLEY'S SIGNATURE IS ON A CERTIFICATE  
APPROVING PARK FOR MONUMENT HONORING DR. BUNCHE. CERTIFICATE  
DATED JUNE 20, 1973, WAS SENT TO DANIEL H. JOHNSON,  
ARTIST WHO PROPOSED BUNCHE MONUMENT IN APRIL 1972.  
SINCE THAT TIME, MR. JOHNSON SAID HE AND SUPPORTERS OF  
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MONUMENT, A 50 FOOT ALUMINUM OBELISK, HAVE WORKED ON

RAISING FUNDS FOR A PROJECT FOR WHICH COST ESTIMATES  
RANGED BETWEEN \$200,000 AND 250,000.

4. CITY COUNCILMAN, HENRY STERN, SPONSOR OF BILL TO  
RENAME PARK ZION SQUARE SAID HE WAS PLEASED AND SURPRISED  
BY DISCLOSURE. QTE IT'S TERRIFIC, WE'RE VERY PLEASED, UNQTE.  
QTE IT WOULD BE A LOVELY ADDITION TO HAVE A MAN SO RESPECTED  
IN JEWISH COMMUNITY HONORED IN SUCH A WAY UNQTE. QTE GOD  
KNOWS, WHOSE MONUMENT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED FOR PARK.  
WE MIGHT HELP IN FUND RAISING. UNQTE

5. HOWEVER, DR. M. T. MEHDI OF ACTION COMMITTEE ON  
AMERICAN ARAB RELATIONS SAID PROPOSED BUNCHE MEMORIAL WAS  
ANOTHER REASON FOR NOT NAMING SPACE ZION SQUARE. QTE I  
KNEW DR. BUNCHE AND WE RESPECTED HIM, TOO, UNQTE SAID MR.  
MEHDI. QTE HE WOULD CONSIDER SUCH ACTION A DISHONOR,  
OF COURSE. IT WOULD MAKE HIM LOOK RIDICULOUS.  
WE WOULD HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR A BUNCHE MONUMENT BUT NOT  
FOR A PLACE IN A PARK SO CLOSE TO UN CALLED ZION SQUARE.  
UNQTE

6. WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP DEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS AS  
THEY OCCUR.  
MOYNIHAN

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